

## Safe Places to Leave your Baby



Having a baby can bring great joy, excitement and love into a parent's life. Raising a child can be stressful and difficult for some parents to manage.

If for any reason you feel you cannot parent your child, there are safe places where you can leave your baby. Safe places will take your baby with open arms, no questions asked. These secure places will make sure your baby receives the care and protection he or she deserves.

A state law in South Dakota allows you to voluntarily leave your baby with a hospital or child placement agency if your child is less than 60 days old. Leaving your baby with one of these places is not a crime *as long as your child has not been harmed.*

You can leave your baby with:

- **hospitals or clinics**
- **law enforcement officers**
- **licensed child placement agencies**
- **the Department of Social Services**
- **emergency medical technicians**
- **firefighters**

You may be asked for pertinent medical information relating to your baby's medical history. However, you will not be required to provide any information, including your name or the other parent's name.

## Your Parental Rights Will Be Terminated

If you don't *express your intent* to return for your baby, your parental rights to your child will be terminated after 14 days. Your baby will then become a ward of the state or the licensed child placement agency.

The place where you leave your baby must notify the Department of Social Services (DSS) that it has your



child. DSS cannot attempt to identify, contact or investigate you unless it appears your child has been harmed. DSS or the child placement agency will take custody and care for your baby.

Your baby's mother or father has a right to file for custody after you have given him or her up. To gain custody, the other parent has 30 days to prove he or she is the parent of your baby and that he or she did not consent to giving up the child's custody.

If the other parent doesn't come forward and 60 days have passed, a circuit court hearing will be held to terminate your parental rights. *This means you will no longer have any rights to your baby.*

\* For more information on this law, see SDCL 25-5A-27 through 25-5A-35. If applicable, the Indian Child Welfare Act must be followed.

## Safe Places to Consider:

### **All About U Adoptions:**

**Phone:** 949-2907

229 E. 2nd Ave., Suite 2, Milbank, SD 57252

### **Bethany Christian Services:**

**Phone:** 336-6999

629 S. Minnesota, Suite 101, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4875

### **Bethany Christian Services of Western SD:**

**Phone:** 343-7196

2525 W. Main St. #309, Rapid City, SD 57702-2443

### **Catholic Family Services:**

**Phone:** 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867

523 N. Duluth, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714

### **Catholic Social Services:**

**Phone:** 348-6086

918 5th St., Rapid City, SD 57701-3798

### **LDS Family Services:**

**Phone:** 342-3500

2525 W. Main St., Suite 310, Rapid City, SD 57702-2443

### **Lutheran Social Services:**

**Phone:** 336-3347

600 W. 12th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57104

### **Lutheran Social Services:**

**Phone:** 348-0477

2920 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, SD 57701

### **New Horizons Adoption Agency, Inc.:**

**Phone:** 332-0310

519 W. 10th St. #103, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-3619

## You can leave your baby at any Social Services office.

**Aberdeen:** 1-866-858-3204, 422 S. Washington, PO Box 1300, 57402-1300

**Belle Fourche:** 1-866-847-7334  
609 5th Ave., 57717-1405

**Brookings:** 1-866-847-7335  
1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 101, 57006-3893

**Chamberlain:** 1-866-847-7339  
320 Sorenson Drive, 57325-1022

**Custer:** 1-866-847-7334  
1164 Mt. Rushmore Rd, #3, 57730-2133

**Deadwood:** 1-866-874-7334  
20 Cliff St., PO Box 607, 57732-0607

**Eagle Butte:** 1-866-442-2095  
1302 N. Willow, PO Box 530, 57625-0530

**Hot Springs:** 1-866-847-7334  
2500 Minnekahta Ave., Building 1,  
PO Box 729, 57747-0729

**Huron:** 1-866-858-3204, 110 3rd St. SW,  
Suite 200, 57350-2450

**Lake Andes:** 1-866-293-0845  
3rd & Lake, PO Box 190, 57356-0190

**Martin:** 1-866-847-7337  
404 3rd Ave., PO Box 250, 57551-0250

**Mission:** 1-866-847-7339 671 N. Marge Lane, PO Box 818, 57555-0818

**Mitchell:** 1-866-293-0845  
116 E. 11th Ave., 57301-1432

**Mobridge:** 1-866-442-2095  
920 6th St. W., PO Box 160, 57601-0160

**Pierre:** 1-866-442-2095  
912 E. Sioux, 57501-3490

**Pine Ridge:** 1-866-847-7337  
Planning Center-Airport, Hwy 18,  
PO Box 279, 57770-0279

**Rapid City:** 394-2525, 510 N. Cambell,  
PO Box 2440, 57709-2440

**Sioux Falls:** 367-7602  
811 E. 10th St., Department 6, 57103-1650

**Sturgis:** 1-866-847-7334  
2200 W. Main St., 57785-1338

**Vermillion:** 1-866-847-7338  
114 Market St., PO Box 516, 57069-0516

**Watertown:** 1-866-847-7335  
2001 9th Ave. SW, Suite 300, PO Box 670,  
57201-0670

**Winner:** 1-866-847-7339  
649 W. 2nd St., PO Box 31, 57580-0031

**Yankton:** 1-866-847-7338  
3113 Spruce St., Suite 200, 57078-5320

Contact the South Dakota  
**Department of Social Services**  
for more information:

**Address:** 700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2291

**Phone:** 605-773-3227 or  
toll free at 1-866-442-2095

**Email:** [CPS@state.sd.us](mailto:CPS@state.sd.us)

**Web:** [www.dss.sd.gov](http://www.dss.sd.gov)



### DSS Nondiscrimination Policy:

It is the policy of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make sure that applications for program benefits and services are made available to everyone and that program benefits are granted to all who meet eligibility standards. DSS staff, programs and policies must not discriminate against clients or applicants for services because of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion and national origin. DSS must also provide fair and equal access to all of its programs and services for people with disabilities; this includes both physical access to buildings and access to programs and services. To file a complaint of discrimination write: DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291 or call: (605) 773-3305. If you have a question regarding program services, please contact your nearest DSS office.

5,000 copies of this document were printed by DSS at a cost of ? cents per copy. DSS/5M/0706

# SAFE HAVENS in South Dakota



## Secure Places to Leave your Baby, No Questions Asked.

